

**FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
JANUARY 27, 2015**

MINUTES

I. The January 27, 2015 meeting of the Frederick County Human Relations Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at Winchester hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland by Vice Chair Tonya Amedon.

An invitation was given to recite the pledge of Allegiance.

II. The following members were present at the meeting: Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Annette Breiling, Lisa Clark, Oladimeji Ibraheem, Adeyemi Adeoye, Irene Packer-Halsey, Georgia McCauley, Francisco Alves and Kavonte Duckett

The following members were absent: Angela Spencer, Jack Thomas, and Mari Lee

The following members of the public were present: Michele Bowman and Acting Captain Jason Keckler, both of the City of Frederick Police Department

III. Upon a motion by Lisa Clark and a 2nd by Oladimeji Ibraheem the minutes were approved with 2 changes.

IV. Comments from the Public

Michelle Bowman spoke about the Youth Resource Fair that will be held at the Francis Scott Key Mall on April 18th from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. She also mentioned the Youth Resource Guide that was produced by a subcommittee of the Local Management Board. She provided one copy: Pat will send the PDF of the guide to all of the members.

Michelle also spoke about the NAC's in the City of Frederick; there are 12 NAC's. They partner with the Police Departments and the residents are very helpful with proposed projects that are in their areas. All topics are welcome for discussion at the meetings.

Acting Captain Jason Keckler was in attendance at the meeting. He is 1 of 2 Department Chiefs and is responsible for Patrols and the Special Operations Division. He is a member of the Frederick County Coalition for the homeless and is concerned with homelessness and the way people are treated.

He directs the patrol team that works in small groups focusing on solving problems downtown. The team looks at the big picture issues instead of just making reports and not solving the overall problems. The team works on making the public aware of the police and how their presence can become a positive instead of a negative. The homeless populations are the eyes and ears on the streets assisting police with possible issues. Storage lockers for the homeless to put their belongings in during the day are a work in progress. There is a concern that park benches have dividers so the homeless can't sleep on them. The homeless camp on Jefferson

Street will possibly be relocated. The Community Action Agency comes up with solutions for people who want help. The Police department is a part of the mental health community. Lt. Matt Evan's retired but will be coming back as a civilian. The Annual HRC report is being worked on by the CPD.

V. Officer's Reports

a. Executive committee

- The MLK Celebration at TJ High School on January 15th was a great event. The children's choirs were among the highlights.
- On January 19th there were volunteer opportunities at both the Bernard Brown Building and the Boys and Girls Club. Both events had a large number of volunteers on hand to participate in the activities.
- A potluck was held at the Evangelical Reformed UCC on January 19th the guest speaker was Roger Wilson. It was a well attended event and next year will require a larger venue.
- All members of the HRC are encouraged to attend the Black History Month Proclamation at Winchester Hall on February 3 at 11:00am.
- The spring retreat is currently scheduled for March. Irene suggested that there be time at the retreat for thoughtful discussion

b. Treasures Report

There is \$3,492.35 available to the HRC as of today.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee

- The Awards Banquet is April 13, 2015 at Dutch's Daughter. Jan Gardner will be the keynote speaker for the event. Irene suggested that possibly next year there could be a panel discussion as well as a speaker for the event. All HRC members are asked to begin to sell ads and tickets to the event. Student sponsors are also needed.

Government Relations Committee

- Georgia reported that there is nothing new regarding Human Relations in the Legislation.
- Council Person Jessica Fitzwater stated that she is happy to be the liaison between the HRC and the County Council.

Internal Relations Committee

- The Fair Housing /Fair Housing Commission Frederick County Association of Realtors on April 9 will be held in the Municipal Hall Annex will include a class for Realtors for them to earn CEU's. David is working on a speaker for the event. This event is for realtors and not a public event.
- Welcome Home Veterans – Ft Detrick has funding for the event. They are looking at April 30th for the date. Irene mentioned that she could arrange for the American Indian honor guard to be present. David is working on event details.

VII. New Business

- The issue of English as the official language of Frederick ordinance was brought up and will be a topic of discussion as something to bring before the county council in the future.
- Council Person Jessica Fitzwater said she was interested into looking into a diversity study in the schools (teachers vs. students) and the possibility of minority recruitment.
- It was decided that the HRC could use a new logo and it was suggested that it could be a contest for art students in the schools.
- The concept of a poster being created to be put in libraries and other public places was brought up. It will be created using the new logo.
- The Annual Human Rights Day training is Tuesday February 17, 2015 in Annapolis, Miles encouraged members of the HRC to attend. Pre registration is necessary.

VIII. HRD Director's Report

- Miles reported that he spoke at the Silver Oak Academy to 100 young men, in honor of MLK. Reverend Brooks was also a speaker at the event.
- Miles reminded everyone to try to attend the Black History month proclamation on Feb 3 at Winchester Hall.

IX. Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, February 17, 2015 – MAHRA's annual Human Rights Day program - President's Conference Center in the West Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Featuring networking opportunities and updates on human rights legislation. While this event is free, advance registration is required: HumanRelations@harfordcountymd.gov or 410-638-4739.
- Saturday, February 21, 2015 – Student Peace Awards Ceremony - Friends Meeting School. Contact Deborah Haines for more information Deborah.haines@gmail.com
- Thursday, April 9, 2015 - Fair Housing Conference –at the Frederick City Hall Annex - Time to be announced
- Monday, April 13, 2015 6 p.m. - HRC Awards Dinner at Dutch's Daughter

X. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Minutes were submitted by the Human Relations Department